

YALE UNIVERSITY
OSBORN BOTANICAL LABORATORY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

28 August 1951

Dr. E.L. Tatum
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Stanford, California

Dear Ed:

I am writing to enquire whether you are looking for a post doctorate man for next year. The man in question is Gabriel Lester, who got his degree this spring. He has worked on lactase in coli-parental and mutants, and I can certainly endorse him as being technically the best man I have had. Even Dr. Fruton concurs. He is additionally able intellectually.

He was slated to go with me to Oak Ridge, but it now seems virtually certain that he cannot be cleared. This is through no doubt of his loyalty or discreetness; rather the activities of some of his family make his "associations" doubtful. Thus I am trying to find him a job, and thought you might be interested in some one working on the gene-enzyme problem in coli. Reaume knows him and probably could tell you of him. If you could let me know ~~just~~ whether there is a possibility with you I would appreciate it.

My own status is ambiguous. The first of the month I went to Oak Ridge for my trial. Had it 2 August, and I understand they are still typing the ~~manuscript~~, ca 600 pages of testimony taken down. Beets kindly came in from Pasadena to serve as a witness for the accused, and I took Henry Bunting from here. Trial started at 9:30 am and went on until 8 pm. Very interesting affair, and I must say I found out much that was mighty interesting -- chief of which was the fact that Sinnott, of all my Yale colleagues, was alone in championing my cause. He wrote the finest testimonial in my behalf, with strength and conviction. As you probably realize, the hearing was occasioned solely from Yale accusations. Will relate it for you some day. I am fairly confident I will be cleared, but probably won't know for a week or so.

As I said, primarily this letter is an attempt to locate Lester.

By the way, I see you still wonder about our use of the English language. Charlie just got a MS back from I.B.C. with the handwriting so familiar on many a paper of mine. I trust you like our N15 paper better this time.

Best regards to all.

As ever,


Dave